



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Sentenced to 12-Year Prison Term for Home Invasion, Assault and Firearms Offenses - Attacked Woman in Front of Their 2-Year-Old Son -

WASHINGTON – Sherwood Russell, 21, of Washington, D.C., has been sentenced to 12 years of incarceration on charges stemming from various crimes, including a home invasion in which he attacked the mother of his young son, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Russell was sentenced on June 10, 2011 on charges of first degree burglary while armed, assault with a dangerous weapon, unlawful entry, firearms offenses, and obstructing, preventing or interfering with reports to or requests for assistance from law enforcement agencies. He pled guilty to the charges in March 2011, and was sentenced by the Honorable Jennifer Anderson.

According to the government's evidence, Russell assaulted the mother of his young son on the night of August 24, 2010 after entering her residence in Southeast Washington and displaying a silver handgun. After coming in through an unlocked door, he told the woman's male friend to leave. Once the man left, Russell hit the victim with the gun, and choked her. Russell fled the apartment when his son, who was two years old at the time, asked him to stop hitting his mother.

Russell returned to the apartment on September 6, 2010, once again entered the place without permission, and argued with the woman. She attempted to call the police and Russell snatched the phone from her hand and broke it.

In another case, Russell was arrested after Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers heard gunshots in the area of Half and N Streets SW on December 1, 2010. The officers saw Russell approximately three blocks from the gunfire. As officers approached Russell, he fled and a chase ensued. Officers caught Russell hiding behind several large crates in the 1200 block of Delaware Street SW, and in a search found a .45-caliber handgun.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Ronald Machen expressed his appreciation to the MPD, and particularly praised the work of Detectives Dennis Myles and Jose Nieves-Campos

and Officer Eric Walsh. He also commended those who worked on the case from the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Criminal Investigator Mark Crawford and Paralegal Joyce Arthur. Finally, he praised Assistant U.S. Attorneys Trevor McFadden, who indicted and investigated the firearms charges, Benjamin Eisman, who prepared the firearms case for trial, and Michelle Bradford, who indicted and prosecuted the domestic violence charges.

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